GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1620
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2007
MEASURES TO SAVE LEOPARDS
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of leopards at present, State-wise;

(b) the number of leopards deaths that have come to the notice of Government during the year till date, State-wise;

(c) whether some cases of skin seizure have come to notice in various States of the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to save the leopard, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY)

(a) As per the information available, the State-wise details of the number of leopards present, is given in the Annexure I.

(b) Details of death of leopards that have come to the notice of the Central Government during the current year are given in the Annexure II.

(c) & (d) As per the information available, the State-wise details of poaching/seizure incidents (including skins) involving major species, namely, tiger, leopard, elephant, rhino, star tortoise, bear, musk deer and otter during the year 2003, 04 and 05 are at Annexure III.

(e) The measures taken by Government of India to ensure protection of leopards, inter alia, include the following:

1. Leopard has been included in the Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, thus according them the highest degree of protection.

2. A network of National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries has been set up across the country to protect wildlife including leopards.

3. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, with a network of five Regional and three Sub Regional Offices, has been set up to control wildlife crimes.

4. Financial support is being provided under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes − Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries, Project Tiger and Project Elephant, to State /UT Governments for the conservation and development of wildlife and its habitats.

5. India is a signatory to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) that regulates international trade in wildlife and its derivatives. In addition, the State/UT Governments have also taken the following measures to protect wild animals including leopards:

1. Development of wildlife habitat to increase the population of wild animals.
2. Intensive patrolling in sensitive areas.
3. Deployment of Ex-service men for patrolling.
4. Coordination with other law enforcement agencies.
5. Provision for arms & ammunition, and communication facilities.
6. Training to frontline staff.
7. Conducting nature awareness campaigns for the public.